

was really sinking to the bottom of the barrel. [Laughter] And I think she's got that turned around.

She's up there trying to run on the issues. I mean, I think that if people care about education, if they care about child care, if they think about balancing work and family, if they want younger people, as well as older people, to have access to health insurance, people like Hillary and Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, those are the kind of people we need to be promoting, because this country is in great shape. But we need to build on what we've got, not reverse it.

Post-Presidential Plans

Q. That's right, sir. And sir, I'm going to say it now because I probably won't get a chance to say it before you leave office. We're going to really miss you.

Q. Thank you so much, sir.

The President. Well, I hope you'll—you know, call me now and then. We'll still talk on the radio. [Laughter] You may be the only guy who wants to talk to me when I'm not President anymore. [Laughter]

Q. I know, because now the Republicans don't even want you to practice law. They've tried to hold that up on you, too.

The President. I know. Well, they tell me that after the—for 3 or 4 months I'll be lost when I leave office because when I walk in a room, nobody will play a song anymore. [Laughter]

Q. We'll play a song for you.

Q. We'll play some old school—yeah.

The President. —one of your songs for “Hail To The Chief”—how's that?

Q. There you go.

Q. Because we know what you like. [Laughter]

The President. You've got a deal.

Q. All right, President Clinton.

The President. Again, I just want to say—I hope everybody listens—you've got to show up Tuesday. You've got to be there. I mean, this election is every bit as important as the one that elected me in 1992. We've turned the country around. The last thing we need to do is go in reverse.

Q. All right.

The President. Thank you.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The interview began at 9:30 a.m. The President spoke via telephone from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush.

Remarks on Departure for Los Angeles, California

November 2, 2000

Situation in the Middle East

Good morning. Thank you very much. Let me begin with a word about developments in the Middle East. Last night the parties announced that they had reached an understanding on how to end the violence based on the agreement we reached at Sharm el-Sheikh.

I hope the parties can move forward to put an end to this violence that has caused so much pain on both sides. We know it won't be easy. This morning we were reminded once again in Jerusalem that there are those who seek to destroy the peace through acts of terror. This cannot be permitted to prevail. It is now time for those who believe in peace to stand together to stop this violence and to work against the terrorists.

106th Congress

I wanted all of you to be here today because you've worked so hard on our priorities here at home. The Republican leadership of the 106th Congress has proven itself unable to finish its work before facing the voters. Congressional Republicans are leaving behind a legacy of unfinished business on health care, education, economic progress, and social justice. Regrettably, this is a Congress that may well be remembered for broken promises, lost opportunities, and misplaced priorities.

In contrast, our administration, with congressional Democrats, put forward an achievable agenda for America and its families, a real Patients' Bill of Rights, expanding health coverage to millions of uninsured Americans, a raise in the minimum wage, tax cuts for education and retirement, improving our public schools, protecting our environment,

strengthening Medicare with a voluntary prescription drug coverage for all seniors, and a balanced budget that pays off the debt by 2012.

We had a simple strategy to accomplish these goals: heeding the wisdom of the American people; reaching out to win bipartisan majorities in Congress; and calling for a vote. That's putting progress over partisanship. The results should have been a strong record of legislative achievement. But time and again, rather than listening to the voices of the American people and responding to the bipartisan calls within the Congress, the Republican leadership has bowed to the demands of special interests.

On every single issue, we have worked in good faith to craft compromises that were good for the American people. And when Democrats and Republicans have worked together, we have actually made real progress. We won new investments for our inner cities, rural communities, and Native American communities, and 79,000 new housing vouchers for families climbing their way out of poverty. We increased our investment in a clean environment and doubled our funds for land conservation. We enacted the largest one-year increase ever requested for Veterans Affairs and the largest increase in the history of the National Science Foundation. And we met our historic commitment to debt relief for developing countries.

Just last Sunday we reached bipartisan agreement on an education budget that would have been a tremendous achievement for our children. But under orders from their special interest, the Republican leadership cancelled the compromise we had reached with the Republican congressional negotiators. So unless we keep fighting, there will be no funds for school construction, no more progress toward cutting class size by hiring 100,000 new qualified teachers, no new investment in teacher quality, no new funding to strengthen accountability, turn around failing schools, double the number of children served in after-school programs. That is wrong. So we must keep working to make it right.

We built a bipartisan coalition to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid by expanding coverage for children with disabilities, Amer-

icans moving from welfare to work, and pregnant women and children who are legal immigrants. But the Republican leadership rejected these proposals in favor of a massive give-away to HMO's—tens of billions of dollars without taking adequate care of these vulnerable populations or adequately compensating the teaching in rural hospitals, home health agencies, and other providers who serve our people. Before this year is out, we must resolve this matter, finally and fairly.

The leadership says they didn't have time to complete the budget. But they wasted no time in blocking fair treatment for Latino immigrants, in blocking commonsense gun safety legislation, in trying to stop new worker safety rules, in filing the spending bills—filling the spending bills they did pass with political election-year pork.

One thing should be clear: The lack of progress in this Congress was not a failure of bipartisanship. On raising the minimum wage, a real Patients' Bill of Rights, hate crimes legislation, campaign finance reform, school construction, the new markets legislation for the areas still not touched by our prosperity—on every single one of these issues, we had bipartisan majorities, Republicans and Democrats, ready to pass them. But the Republican leadership and their special interest allies, unfortunately, still had the power to kill them.

It is unfortunate that their leadership failed to deliver on so much that was within our grasp. But the fight is not over. The American people expect us to finish the job they sent us here to do, and when the Republican leadership comes back after the election, I hope we are ready to work together—and they are ready to work together—to meet that challenge. I am ready. We've done a lot of good, but there's too much left undone, too much that a majority of both parties support.

So thanks for your efforts. Let's go out and let the American people have their say, and we'll come back and go to work after the election.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks at a California Democratic Party and Coordinated Campaign Reception in Los Angeles, California
November 2, 2000

That's the shortest speech by a politician on record. [*Laughter*] Thank you, and thank you, Governor. I'm looking forward to this little meeting today, but I want to thank you for the work you're doing for the Coordinated Campaign. I'm delighted to be here. We've got five congressional seats here we've got to try to win. And we've got to reelect Senator Feinstein and carry California for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. So we know what we have to do.

And I can tell you, I've been around the country now—I've done like 160 events, maybe more, this year. I just got back from Louisville. If people understand what the issues are and what the differences are and what the consequences are, we'll win. This is not complicated. So I hope I can help you in the next 2 days.

The only other thing I would say is, all the surveys show that basically this election could turn on whether our voters want to go vote as much as their voters do. And what motivates them is knowing what's at stake. So I'll do what I can to help you do that, and then when I leave, I know you'll bring them to victory.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the atrium at the Regency Club. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Gray Davis of California. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Get Out the Vote Rally in Los Angeles
November 2, 2000

The President. Thank you. Whoa. Are you ready to win this election? I want to thank all of you for coming out, for your enthusiasm and your support. I want to thank my good friend Kenny Edmonds. He writes a good song, and he makes a good introduction, I think. [*Laughter*]

Thank you, Governor Gray Davis, for your leadership and your friendship. Thank you,

Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante. Thank you, Art Torres. Thank you, Representative Hilda Solis. And to the other officials who are here, Genethia Hayes, Assemblyman Herb Wesson, Senator Kevin Murray, Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, and Art Pulaski of the Federation of Labor. And I'd also like to thank your speaker, Bob Hertzberg, and the folks that performed and sang before me here. Thank you, Holly Robinson Peete; thank you, Wyclef Jean. And my good friend Camryn Manheim, not on stage but interpreting me. Isn't she great?

Now, look, I've got to say a few things—can you hear me?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. And you have to indulge me, because I know that I'm sort of preaching to the saved here today. And the temptation, therefore, is just to say things that make us all shout and have a good time.

But look, this is a close election, and there are, in addition to the Presidency, races for United States Senate, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and we have five—count 'em—five House seats that the Democrats could win in the State of California alone, on our way to recovering the majority.

So I want you all just to let me talk just a few minutes—not too loud—and tell you what I hope you will say to everybody who is not here, because every one of you have a lot of friends who have never been to anything like this. Is that right? They never came to hear the President give a speech or the Governor or one of these political deals. But they all vote, or they could vote if they knew why they were voting. Is that right?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. So here is what I want to tell you. Number one, thank you, thank you, thank you for the support that California, Los Angeles, and Watts have given to me and Al Gore these last 8 years.

You know, one of the things that I worry about in this election is that there are a lot of young people of voting age who can't even remember what it was like back in 1992. The economy was in trouble; the society was divided; there were riots in Los Angeles. The political system in Washington was pure tone-deaf to you across the country in California.